

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 were pending in the application. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 21, 25, 31, and 32 have been amended. Claims 1-6 and 8-37 remain pending in the application.

Objections to the Drawings:

The drawings were objected to. In a first objection, the Examiner states that the LSSD clocks and STEP clocks shown in Figure 2 are not referred to in the disclosure. Applicant respectfully disagrees, and submits that both the LSSD clocks (also shown as LSSD_CLKA and LSSD_CLKB in Figure 9) and the STEP clocks (shown in Figure 9 as the clock signals of LBST_STEP_CLKC and LBST_STEP_CLKE) are referred to in the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 6, in conjunction with Figure 9.

The drawings were also objected to because the LSSD_CLKA, LSSD_CLKB, LBST_SCAN_CLKA and LBST_SCAN_CLKB were not referred to in the disclosure. Applicant has amended the disclosure to include reference to the LSSD_CLKA and LSSD_CLKB signals, which are the LSSD clocks discussed above. Applicant has amended Figure 9 to remove the LBST_SCAN_CLKA and LBST_SCAN_CLKB references.

Objection to the Specification:

The specification was objected to for various informalities. Applicant has amended the specification to correct these informalities.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections:

Claims 7 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has cancelled claim 7, and thus believes its rejection to now be moot. Applicant submits that the amended version of claim 31 is in compliance with both the first and second paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections:

Claims 1, 6, 7, 13, 15, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Motika, U.S. Patent 5,982,189. Claims 2, 4, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motika in view of Koproski, U.S. Patent 6,671,838. Claim 3 was rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motika in view of Koproski and in further view of Zuraski, U.S. Patent 6,560,740, Lo, U.S. Patent 5,661,732, and Wong, U.S. Patent 6,636,997. Claim 4 was rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motika in view of Koproski and in further view of Rajski, U.S. Patent 6,684,358. Claim 5 was rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motika in view of Koproski and in further view of Jun, U.S. Patent 6,658,611. Claims 8 and 24 were rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motika in view of Au, U.S. Patent 6,681,359. Claims 9, 11, 16, 17, 21, and 22 were rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motika in view of Zuraski. Claims 10 and 12 were rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motika in view of Zuraski and in further view of Lo. Claim 23 was rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motika in view of Kim, U.S. Patent 6,148,426. Claims 25, 26, and 31 were rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motika in view of Kraus, U.S. Patent 6,587,979. Claim 27 was rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motika in view of Kraus and in further view of Rajski. Claims 28 and 30 were rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motika in view of Kraus and in further view of Zuraski, Lo, and Wong. Claim 29 was rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motika in view of Kraus and in further view of Zuraski, Lo, Wong, Jun, and Au. Claim 32, 36 and 37 were rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Au in view of Zuraski and in further view of Motika. Claim 33 was rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Au in view of Zuraski, Motika, and Kraus. Claim 34 was rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Au in view of Zuraski and in further view of Lo, and Wong. Claim 35 was rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Au in view of Zuraski and in further view of Motika. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

With regard to the §102(b) rejection, **the cited reference does not teach all of the elements of the independent claims.** Motika teaches a built-in stress circuit for an integrated circuit that has a frequency generator, at least one self-test circuit, a temperature regulator and a controller. The frequency generator receives a reference clock and an adjusted temperature frequency from the temperature regulator and outputs the test frequencies needed for the self-test circuits. The self-test circuits, which are coupled to the frequency generator, receive the test frequencies and dissipate power as the self-test circuits are being used. The temperature regulator, which is coupled to the self-test circuits and the frequency generator, senses the power dissipated (i.e., the temperature), adjusts a temperature frequency corresponding to the temperature desired, and outputs the adjusted temperature frequency. The controller, which is coupled to the frequency generator, the self-test circuits, and the temperature regulator, provides the control data necessary for testing both electrical and thermal stress conditions.

In contrast, independent claim 1 recites, in pertinent part,

“A dual mode built-in self-test controller ... wherein the dual-mode built-in self-test controller is geographically centralized within an integrated circuit”
(Emphasis added).

Independent claims 13, 18, 25 and 32 recite similar combinations of features.

Motika does not teach or suggest this combination of features. In particular, Applicant can find no teaching or suggestion of a built-in self-test controller is geographically centralized within an integrated circuit as recited in the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Motika fails to anticipate independent claims 1, 13, and 18. Accordingly, removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections is respectfully requested.

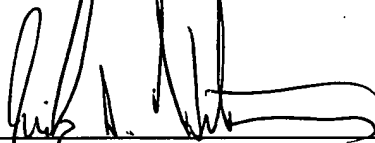
With regard to the § 103(a) rejections Applicant submits that, for at least the reasons stated above in regard to the § 102(b) rejections that the cited references, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the elements of the independent claims. In particular, Applicant can find no teaching or suggestion in any of the cited references of a dual mode built-in self-test controller that is geographically centralized within an integrated circuit in any of the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-48800/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik A. Heter', is written over a horizontal line.

Erik A. Heter
Reg. No. 50,652
AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

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